

PATENT
Serial No. 10/528,624
Amendment in Reply to Office Action mailed on December 30, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Driving A driving apparatus comprising at least two driving members {1, 2, 3, 4} and at least one driven member {5}, wherein each of the at least two driving members is frictionally engaged to the at least one driven member {5} to move said driven member {5}, wherein the friction between each driven member {5} and each driving member {1, 2, 3, 4} is such that the driven member moves when over half of the driving members {1, 2, 3, 4} being in frictional engagement with said driven member are moved simultaneously between a first and a second position, wherein the friction between each driven member {5} and each driving member {1, 2, 3, 4} is such that the driven member {5} substantially remains stationary when less than half of the driving members {1, 2, 3, 4} being in frictional engagement with said driven member are moved.

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2. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least two piezoelectric elements ~~(8)~~ arranged to move the at least two driving members ~~(1, 2, 3, 4)~~ independently.

3. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least three driving members ~~(1, 2, 3, 4)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the apparatus comprises at least two driven members ~~(5a, 5b, 5c)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a first driving member is frictionally engaged to a first driven member only, wherein a second driving member is frictionally engaged to a second driven member only, wherein a third driving member is frictionally engaged to both the first and the second driven member.

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6. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least four driving members (1, 2, 3, 4).

7. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least three driven members (5a, 5b, 5c).

8. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the driving members (1, 2, 3, 4) is at least partially surrounded by part of the at least one driven member (5a, 5b, 5c).

9. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each driven member comprises a section of a substantially cylindrical element.

10. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each driving member (1, 2, 3, 4)

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comprises an elongated member.

11. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving members are substantially parallel over a certain distance-(L).

12. (Currently Amended) Driving The driving apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the elongated at least two driving members extend adjacent to each other over a certain distance-(L).

13. (Currently Amended) Use of A method of moving a driven member of a driving apparatus, the method comprising the acts of according to at least claim 1, wherein the following steps are carried out in an appropriate order to move each driven member-(5):

[[a]] moving over half of the driving members {1, 2} of the driving apparatus that are frictionally engaged to the driven member (5) are moved from a first to a second position at substantially the same time; and

[[b]] returning the driving members {1, 2} are returned from the second to the first position in groups comprising less

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than half of the driving members (1, 2), wherein the driven member substantially remains stationary during said returning act.

14. (Currently Amended) Use The method according to claim 13, wherein said steps moving and returning acts are repeated until said driven member (5) has been moved over a desired distance.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) Optical An optical system comprising a slide and the driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the slide is fixed to the at least one driven member.

18. (New) A driving apparatus comprising:
at least two driving members;
at least one driven member; and
means for moving the driven member by moving over half of the at least two driving members that are frictionally engaged to the driven member;

wherein said means for moving is further configured to

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substantially maintain stationary the driven member while moving less than half of the driving members.

19. (New) The driving apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for moving is configured to bring the at least two driving members into contact with each other to frictionally engage and move the at least one driven member.

20. (New) The driving apparatus of claim 18, wherein the at least two driving members are at least partially surrounded by part of the at least one driven member.

21. (New) The driving apparatus of claim 18, wherein the at least one driven member comprises a section of a substantially cylindrical element at least partially surrounding the at least two driving members.

22. (New) The driving apparatus of claim 18, wherein the at least two driving members comprise three driving members.